

ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH EQUITY TO REDUCE POVERTY:

Generating Prosperity for Our People

At the Special Summit of the Americas, leaders committed to foster broad-based economic growth. The need for growth is great—too many in our hemisphere suffer from persistent poverty or fall outside the formal economy. In an effort to overcome these challenges, leaders agreed to continue implementing sound economic policies and take steps to strengthen the foundations for growth. These steps include reducing the time and cost of starting a business, expanding access to capital for small and medium-sized firms, strengthening property rights, and reducing the cost of sending remittances. For each of these steps, leaders agreed to take concrete action by a specific date. Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to completing negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas.



Rosalez Fernandez sends part of his paycheck to his mother in El Salvador from Latin American Credit Unions. (World Council of Credit Unions, Inc.)

Despite recent reforms, burdensome bureaucracy continues to hinder people in Latin America and the Caribbean who want to improve their lives. The region suffers from the lowest investment rates and longest times for starting a business in the developing world. Implementing the Special Summit mandates is part of a broader commitment by leaders to expand opportunity for all.

The United States actively supports national-level development efforts by providing bilateral assistance, sharing of best practices, and advancing free trade. The U.S. is also an active member of a variety of multilateral organizations that assist countries in pursuing growth-oriented policies. Working together, our hemisphere can realize the goal of economic prosperity for all.

U.S. ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE HEMISPHERE'S AGENDA

- The U.S. has provided over \$150 million per year in trade capacity-building support to the region to help countries transition to **free trade**.
- The U.S. is building on the success of the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity across the hemisphere. This Partnership has dramatically helped reduce the costs of sending **remittances** to Mexico: Costs have fallen 58 percent since 1999.
- The U.S. continues to promote best practices for **property registration**. It will launch an Alliance for Accountability on Property Rights to advocate for improved legal frameworks and identify benchmarks for success.
- The U.S. actively supports the Inter-American Development Bank's efforts to **triple lending through the banking system** to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.
- The U.S. is leading efforts to develop a Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Congress of the Americas to expand trade opportunities for **small business**.